

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 4072

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP JA

SUBJ: MIYAZAWA VISIT

REF: STATE 071343

1. SUBJECT OF FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON HAS AGAIN BEEN SUBJECT OF PRESS SPECULATION OVER WEEKEND. ASAHI SUNDAY MORNING MARCH 30 FRONT-PAGED STORY, LABELED COMPLETELY SPECULATIVE BY FOREIGN OFFICE, SAID PLAN FOR MIYAZAWA TO VISIT WASHINGTON APRIL 10 AND 11 AND MEET WITH THE SECRETARY APPEARED TO BE MOVING TOWARD REALIZATION. QUOTING FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES, ASAHI SAID USG THROUGH EMBASSY HAD MARCH 29 PROPOSED A FIRM DATE FOR MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AND GOJ IS "INCLINED" TO ACCEPT IT. PAPER SAID FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF PLAN MUST AWAIT MIYAZAWA'S RETURN FROM SAUDI ARABIA MARCH 30.

2. ACCORDING TO BACKGROUND INFORMATION PROVIDED BY FONOFF EARLY MARCH 31, VICE MINISTER TOGO MET MIYAZAWA UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT HANEDA SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND BRIEFED HIM ON THE SECRETARY'S AGREEMENT TO MEET IN WASHINGTON APRIL 10. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERY ABOUT APRIL 10 AND 11 DATES MENTIONED IN SUNDAY'S ASAHI ARTICLE, MIYAZAWA SAID HE WAS NOT YET IN POSSESSION OF FULL FACTS, BUT IF SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD MADE TIME IN HIS BUSY SCHEDULE FOR A MEETING WITH MIYAZAWA, FOREIGN MINISTER FELT HE SHOULD GO. HE
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THEN ALLUDED TO PROBLEM POSED BY DIET BEING

TECHNICALLY IN SESSION AT THAT TIME, DESPITE SLOWDOWN IN COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES OWING TO ABSENCES OF MEMBERS CAMPAIGNING IN LOCAL DISTRICTS, FONMIN SAID THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT IN GOVERNMENT AND PARTY ABOUT PROPOSED ABSENCE FROM THE COUNTRY OF FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. FONOFF INFORMS US THIS MORNING THAT INTERNAL COORDINATION OF MIYAZAWA'S DESIRE TO ACCEPT DATE PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY IS GOING FORWARD WITH TOGO CONSULTATIONS THIS MORNING WITH CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF LDP. FONOFF EXPECTS THAT AGREEMENT TO PERMIT MIYAZAWA TO LEAVE COUNTRY WILL BE REACHED AND DECISION PASSED TO US BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY.

4. IF POLITICAL DECISION PROCESS GOES AS EXPECTED, FONOFF INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NEED TO RELEASE GENERAL TIMING OF VISIT PLANS TO PRESS IMMEDIATELY TO FORESTALL FURTHER AWKWARD PRESS SPECULATION. THEY NOTED THAT, ASSUMING POSITIVE GOJ RESPONSE IN TIME, DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AT NOON BRIEFING MONDAY MARCH 31 WASHINGTON TIME. IN THAT EVENT, FONOFF WOULD MAKE RELEASE TO PRESS EARLY MONDAY EVENING TOKYO TIME FOR PUBLICATION IN TUESDAY MORNING PRESS. THIS RELEASE TIME WOULD PREDATE WASHINGTON RELEASE SLIGHTLY BUT APPEARS TO BE UNAVOIDABLE BECAUSE OF NIGHT HOURS TOKYO TIME WHEN DEPARTMENT MADE ITS PUBLIC RELEASE MONDAY NOON. FONOFF COULD PRESUMABLY EMBARGO RELEASE UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING PRESS.

5. REQUEST AUTHORITY TO PERMIT GOJ TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS PUBLIC STATEMENT LATE MONDAY TOKYO TIME. WOULD APPRECIATE TEXT OF ANY ANNOUNCEMENT DEPARTMENT MAY MAKE.
SHOESMITH

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